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Minutes of LAAC May 2018 Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

CCSA LA Office

Attendance	
Present	LAAC Members: Vanessa Jackson (Collegiate), Emilio Pack (STEM Prep), Caprice Young (Magnolia), Yvette King-Berg (YPI), Valerie Braimah (City), Ted Morris (Endeavor), Pam Magee (Palisades), Cristina DeJesus (Green Dot), Marcia Aaron (KIPP) LAAC Members present via phone: Irene Sumida (Fenton), Jackie Elliot (PUC), Parker Hudnut (ICEF), Brian Bauer (Granada Hills) CCSA Staff: Cassy Horton, Jennie Shin, Chris Copolillo, Jason Rudolph, Ebony Wheaton, Jed Wallace
Not Present	Mark Kleger-Heine (Citizens of the World), Ana Ponce (Camino Nuevo), Oliver Sicat (Ednovate), Erin Studer (CHIME)

Reminders
Next LAAC Meeting To be rescheduled.

Welcome
Emilio opened the meeting by sharing that the agenda is shorter than usual and primarily focused on yesterday's selection of Austin Beutner as LAUSD's new Superintendent. Due to yesterday's announcement, planned guests Frances Gipson and Jose Cole-Gutierrez were called into district meetings today and had to cancel.
[Discussion] LAUSD Superintendent
Jed shared his thoughts on Austin Beutner as Superintendent, based on his meetings and conversations with Austin. Asset-mapping. Whip-around on relationships and non-public information about issues that Austin cares about: - Emilio: One brief conversation with Austin. Asked if I could call Kelly for her vote. We have used Vision to Learn – everyone loved the organization and they did good by kids. - Parker: He was on the board of ICEF when I joined the organization, for a little over a year. In that time that we overlapped, he came to 2 board meetings total. We know each other, but it was a number of years ago. He donated \$300K to ICEF back then. Departed the Board in Fall 2012. Haven't spoken to him at length in years. He is a good friend of Riordan's, that is the connection to ICEF. - Jackie: Nothing to add. Don't know him. - Irene: Don't know him. We've worked with Vision to Learn – very positive. - Caprice: Know him very well. We are very lucky, I think he's going to be terrific. ICEF – we recruited him not just because of Riordan but also because of ICEF's focus on arts. He was on

Cal Arts board – very supportive of the arts. Also puts him on the side of creative curriculum and innovation. He didn't engage in the tougher issues that ICEF was experiencing. He's a very creative thinker when it comes to different sources of funding – i.e. Vision to Learn. He understands the political dynamics. Very engaged with California Community foundation as a benefactor. The work that he was doing as an investment banker was when the Soviet Union had just collapsed so he is very savvy about governance structures. Relationships with many ethnic communities in LAUSD as well as non-UTLA labor groups. He's worked closely with Local 99. Expect him to pay particular attention to the needs of the families of those unions. He keeps his own counsel. He'll talk to a lot of people but the decision-making is not by consensus. I worry about getting so bogged down in having to be in all those board meetings and not having a strong number 2 to keep things moving, because he likes to be personally engaged in decisions. Also worry about the general blindsiding shit that always happens – there are a lot of bad things that happen all the time, on a normal basis. Genuine integrity. His son went to Harvard Westlake which was not a good match for him because of his creativity and skiing. He got together a group of people who spent most of their lives up on the mountain at Mammoth and asked me to create a school for them so they could ski and go to school. We put it together but it didn't happen for a variety of reasons. He understands that charter law works for people with different needs.

- Marcia: We met with him when he was publisher at LA Times. Then, Tribune was owned by Oak Tree. We are very close with people at Oak Tree, so probably have connections in common.
- Vanessa: Never heard of him before this.
- Cristina: Met with him once. Board member who is close with him – learning more about that relationship.
- Valerie: Nothing.
- Pam: Nothing.
- Yvette: Met him once. But close relationships via YPI.
- Ted: Don't know him. Curious about his media connections.

Second whip-around – what should we be doing and avoiding in building a relationship with this new superintendent?

- Yvette: My relationship with Michelle was bridged by Monica because of a women's group. It was easy to connect and stay connected.
- Pam: Need to understand the issues that matter.
- Valerie: How do we help give cover and recovery to the Board that just selected him? The press is skewed negative, the billionaire's narrative, etc.
- Cristina: Recurring meetings. There are a lot of people at Beaudry right now who are worried about their jobs and we need to capitalize on that.
- Vanessa: Being really disciplined about picking a couple things to focus on – things that can be wins for not just charters but for everyone (or presented as such).
- Marcia: At KIPP, our name and our results have allowed us access to Superintendents even without a strong relationship. He needs some quick wins so people don't think he's evil.
- Emilio: Face-to-face, one-on-one meetings outside of Beaudry – if we can pull that off.
- Caprice: We need to keep the pressure on as hard as we can. Pleasant but vocal and in his face. Need to go to board meetings and advocate for what we want. We can't give him a pass. He needs to be able to say “these charter people are all over me” – that's actually cover.
- Ted: When Deasy was Superintendent, all the TFA people I knew went to Beaudry. Lida is on my board if we want to funnel TFA people again.

- Parker: We don't want him to be seen as a super pro-charter person because we don't want him to be fired in 6 months if the board swings.
- Jackie: I had a great relationship with Deasy because I knew him from before. How can we establish a trusting relationship. I don't want him to get fed things from the CSD that are not accurate.
- Irene: Superintendents in the past have come to visit us. They ask "how did you do this?" when they see it in action.
 - o Valerie: Organized school tour of charters.
 - o Emilio: Very soft commitment to meet with LAAC in August or September. Michelle wanted it to be much smaller, off the radar – we'll see what he prefers.
- Jed: Austin is likely to be a person who will marshal the forces of the city to get things done. We should understand his asset map like the people who spoke at his press conference. Civic machinery. Move fast on transparency, get all of the bad things out into the open, so he can blame things on the nameless/faceless past.

Third whip-around – Ref's hearing is in July. Austin is starting on May 14. Small window of time to get things done.

- Cristina: Clear renewal criteria that then influences oversight in the following year. (A lot of agreement in the room.)
- Caprice: Long term facilities agreements.
- Parker: I would suggest two items – renewal criteria and 20 by 20 (give him a win so he can get everyone on the same team).
- Ted: Renewal criteria and oversight. Leverage the momentum we had a lost with relationships inside.
- Yvette: Agree
- Valerie: Agree
- Irene: Agree
- Jackie: Agree
- Jed: I would be pushing on transparency on facilities.

Emilio: Our priorities are still very much alive. The path to get there might look a little different.

[Discussion] Facilities North Star

Update from Ebony on bond advocacy work:

- Still a lack of clarity on the part of board members and staff as to whether the district will go out for a bond this November. Increasing likelihood that it will not be 2018, but we need to remain vigilant and prepared regardless. Deadline to file is August 10.
- They are talking about the bond. They have been polling – results are positive based on what they've told us. This means there would be significant support for a new bond.
- We also know that additional funds have been drawn down from the charter school bucket – they do this every year from Prop 39 co-locations.
- We are hearing that the District needs bond money to meet current building plans and obligations. Not enough in the pot to get to 2020.
- Beutner's business and financial background may cause hesitation toward asking taxpayers for facilities money. Task Force (led by Beutner) just directed the District to inventory and problem-solve current facilities. Bad narrative to ask for more facilities money when we don't even know what we're doing with current facilities.
- The new superintendent will move quickly on transparency.

- We put together the bond proposal with input from charter leaders. We received some feedback today from Kelly's staff. Not a whole lot of pushback, but they did raise some concerns and things we should be aware of in this political climate.
- August deadline by which the Board needs to decide. 2/3 of the Board needs to vote to authorize a bond.
- Update from Mike Keeley: Staff has said that all remaining Measure Q dollars (around \$1B of \$7.9B) have been allocated, meaning the district needs additional bond money in order to get things done. Staff is likely pushing for this.

Lobbying Exercise to prepare to answer questions about the bond. Rather than participate in the full exercise, LAAC members reviewed the handout and discussed. Comments included:

- Debt utilization can be better used elsewhere. For example, homelessness problem. If not, then we should wait until we have a better board that is going to use the bond money appropriately, including charters.
- Metrics around how many students we are serving on how many acres of land / in how many classrooms.
- How do we show that the bond money can be used for win-win? Money can be used to better prepare district facilities.
- What does Austin want to do with a bond? Should it be a facilities bond when there are other issues going on? LAUSD is facilities rich – don't need to ask tax payers for more facilities.
- Sequence the facilities issues. District should have a facilities strategy.

Ebony shared that next steps might include sending around talking points to help address some of what has been raised today.

Closing

Emilio shared that the June meeting date may be changed, but asked members to please make every effort to attend in person. This will be the last meeting of this group of LAAC members before some transitions off and on the council.